

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /086 W

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P R 161630Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4833

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRBJ

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MOPS MMOL MR MO SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 2562

1. VISIBLE MILITARY PRESENCE IN NOUAKCHOTT IS NO GREATER
DECEMBER 16 THAN PREVIOUS DAY AND POSSIBLY LITTLE LESS. THREE
SECURITY SERVICE COMPOUNDS--ETAT MAJOR, NATIMNAL GENDARMERIE,
AND NATIONAL GUARD--REMAIN VERY ACTIVE. UNANNOUNCED CURFEW HAS
APPARENTLY BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT INNKOUAKCHOTT DURING EARLY
MORNING HOURS. WE ARE AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE WHERE
MAURITANIAN NATIONAL WAS PICKED UP AT LATE HOUR FOR REPORTED
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CURFEW VIOLATION. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ALLEGED CURFEW APPLIES

TO NON-MAURITANIANS. PERIODICALLY, AIR MAURITANIE F-27S CONTINUE TO BE REQUISITIONED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. (AIR MAURITANIE DC-3 AND DC-4 ARE STILL IN USE ALMOST FULLTIME BY MILITARY). F-27 COMMERCIAL FLIGHT SCHEDULED TODAY FOR 1430 WAS CANCELLED AT 1400. PLANE IS BEING USED INSTEAD TO TRANSPORT TROOPS. AS BEST AS WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE, LA GUERA REMAINS IN HANDS OF F POLISARIO.

2.ACCORDING TO DECEMBER 15 REPORT FROM ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT, MAURITANIAN VILLAGE OF BIR MOGREIN (HAVING POPULATION OF LESS THAN 2,000 AND LOCATED NEAR SAHAA BORDER IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY) HAS BEEN ENCIRCLED BY F POLISARIO TROOPS AND IS UNDER FREQUENT FIRE. ROMANIAN ALSO SAID THAT L. COL. WIAH OULD MAYOUF, CHIEF OF NATIONAL GENDARMERIE, WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN BATTLE NEAR CHOUM TUNNEL. MAYOUF IS REPORTEDLY IN HOSPITAL IN NOUAKCHOTT.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS RETURNED TO NOUAKCHOTT FROM NEW YORK ON DECEMBER 14. UPON ARRIVAL, HE TOLD PRESS THAT MAURITANIA'S TALKS NOW TO HASTEN RETURN TO MOTHER COUNTRY OF THAT PART OF OUR TERRITORY WHICH IS STILL NOT TOTALLY DECOLONIZED AND TO BEGIN AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT." HE CALLED UPON BROTHER SAHARANS TO IGNORE FALSE PROPAGANDA WHICH LEADS THFO TO TRY ABSOLUTELY FUTILE ADVENTURIST ACTIONS OF WHICH THEY WILL BECOME VICTIMS. MOUKNASS CONCLUDED THAT SAHARANS MUST RLZURN TO REASON AND PUT THEIR ENERGY, INTELLIGENCE,PATRIOTISM, AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE SERVICE OF "THE GREAT MAURITANIAN NATION".HANDYSIDE

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